



**R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney
Southern District of West Virginia**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 6, 2011
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/>

CONTACT: Melvin Smith
800-659-8726*(304)345-2200
Melvin.Smith@usdoj.gov

LOGAN COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON ON ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION CHARGE

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Billy E. Lunsford, 43, of Logan County, West Virginia, was sentenced today to 77 months in prison by United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. The defendant was found to be in possession of a loaded .22 caliber handgun at a Logan County residence known for illegal drug activity. The firearm had been reported stolen in 2006 from a residence in Williamson, West Virginia.

Lunsford was prohibited from possessing a firearm based on a 2005 felony conviction in the Circuit Court of Logan County.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in the United States by networking existing local programs targeting gun crime.

The US 119 Task Force conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney William King handled the prosecution.

###